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INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE STATISTICS

For the year 1982
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UNITED STATES INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION

The United States Independent Telephone Association was organized in 1897 for the purpose of promoting the general welfare of the individual firms and corporations engaged in providing Independent telephone service in cities, communities and rural areas in the United States and its territories as well as the manufacturers and suppliers of equipment and material needed to meet these service requirements. The Association was incorporated under the laws of the state of Illinois in 1915.

One of the activities engaged in by the Association in serving its members is that of publishing annually a volume containing statistical data and other information relating to the Independent telephone industry.

The format and extent of the statistical data and other information have been changed from time to time in order to enhance the usefulness of this publication.

We wish to express appreciation to those companies which have contributed to the publication of the volume by submitting underlying operating data and other information.

July 1983 *United States Independent Telephone Association*

STATISTICS

OF THE

INDEPENDENT

TELEPHONE INDUSTRY

Data compiled by

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Director of Statistics

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By United States Independent Telephone Association

SCOPE

The information contained in this Annual Statistical Volume is based on information submitted to the United States Independent Telephone Association by 754 companies (Class A 715 and Class B 39). These companies represent the following percentage of the total Independent telephone industry.

Companies	52.65
Exchanges	87.24
Employees	96.89
Access Lines	97.57
Plant	97.94
Operating Revenues	96.87

For its accounting purposes the Federal Communications Commission has established the following classifications based on annual operating revenues:

Class A	$250,000 and over
Class B	$100,000-$249,999

Due to variations in the number of companies reporting for the periods involved, as well as changes in individual company classification, care should be exercised when making comparisons based upon data contained herein.

Information relating to telephone development in areas served by the Bell System and certain other data have been furnished by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE TELEPHONE INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

	Independents	Bell System (2)	Total Bell & Independents
		ACCESS LINES (000 Omitted)	
1982	21 672	86 921	108 593
1981	21 429	85 987	107 416
1980	20 808	83 884	104 692
1979	20 078	81 400	101 478
1978	19 246	78 366	97 612
1977	18 345	75 125	93 470
1976	17 538	72 308	89 846
1975	16 855	69 880	86 735
1974	16 368	67 899	84 267
1973	15 739	65 825	81 564
		OPERATING COMPANIES	
1982	1 432	25	1 457
1981	1 459	25	1 484
1980	1 483	25	1 508
1979	1 488	25	1 513
1978	1 527	25	1 552
1977	1 556	25	1 581
1976	1 590	25	1 615
1975	1 618	25	1 643
1974	1 641	25	1 666
1973	1 695	25	1 720
		EXCHANGES	
1982	11 074	6 874	17 948
1981	11 086	6 872	17 958
1980	11 040	6 717	17 757
1979	11 050	6 654	17 704
1978	11 053	6 705	17 758
1977	11 045	6 711	17 756
1976	11 040	6 712	17 752
1975	11 057	6 722	17 779
1974	11 048	6 728	17 776
1973	11 026	6 734	17 760

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE TELEPHONE INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

	Independents	Bell System (2)	Total Bell & Independents
TOTAL INVESTMENT IN PLANT (000 Omitted)			
1982	$41 500 000	160 198 838	$201 698 838
1981	38 298 000	148 812 635	187 110 635
1980	35 300 000	135 524 245	170 824 245
1979	31 644 000	123 866 601	155 510 601
1978	27 788 000	112 989 445	140 777 445
1977	25 130 000	103 576 259	128 706 259
1976	23 000 000	96 340 000	119 340 000
1975	21 200 000	89 194 378	110 394 378
1974	19 600 000	82 700 000	102 300 000
1973	$17 418 533	75 520 000	$92 938 533
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES ($000 Omitted)			
1982	$13 880 000	65 698 356	$79 578 356
1981	12 206 000	59 384 614	71 590 614
1980	10 475 000	51 865 610	62 340 610
1979	9 240 000	46 430 667	55 670 667
1978	8 085 000	41 952 941	50 037 941
1977	7 115 000	37 260 406	44 375 406
1976	6 300 000	33 517 965	39 817 965
1975	5 500 000	29 590 723	35 090 723
1974	4 920 000	26 761 000	31 681 000
1973	$ 4 316 990	24 072 000	$28 388 990
EMPLOYEES			
1982	192 100	840 675	1 032 775
1981	197 200	874 000	1 071 200
1980	194 000	868 000	1 062 000
1979	190 000	855 000	1 045 000
1978	179 000	823 000	1 002 000
1977	167 000	785 100	952 100
1976	160 000	778 000	938 000
1975	158 000	788 000	946 000
1974	163 000	812 000	975 000
1973	161 000	818 200	979 200

(2) The Bell System data includes the Southern New England Telephone Company, the Cincinnati Bell Inc. and Bell System service telephones. These companies are associated with the Bell System but a majority of their common stocks are not owned by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

NOTE: Information with respect to total investment in plant, total operating revenues and employees included above for independent companies not reporting to the United States Independent Telephone Association has been estimated.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

	Reporting Companies	Non-Reporting Companies	Total
ACCESS LINES (000 Omitted)			
1982	21 146	526	21 672
1981	20 561	868	21 429
1980	19 412	1 396	20 808
1979	18 576	1 502	20 078
OPERATING COMPANIES			
1982	754	678	1 432
1981	768	691	1 459
1980	765	718	1 483
1979	755	733	1 488
1978	761	766	1 527
1977	757	799	1 556
1976	764	826	1 590
1975	731	887	1 618
1974	698	943	1 641
1973	700	995	1 695
EXCHANGES			
1982	9 661	1 413	11 074
1981	9 629	1 457	11 086
1980	9 462	1 578	11 040
1979	9 399	1 651	11 050
1978	9 231	1 822	11 053
1977	9 241	1 804	11 045
1976	9 198	1 842	11 040
1975	9 077	1 980	11 057
1974	8 890	2 158	11 048
1973	8 731	2 295	11 026

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

	Reporting Companies	Non-Reporting Companies	Total
TOTAL INVESTMENT IN PLANT ($000 Omitted)			
1982	$40 548 413	951 587	$41 500 000
1981	37 574 849	723 151	38 298 000
1980	34 099 864	1 200 136	35 300 000
1979	30 899 236	744 764	31 644 000
1978	26 830 699	957 301	27 788 000
1977	24 256 743	873 257	25 130 000
1976	22 167 383	832 617	23 000 000
1975	20 311 205	888 795	21 200 000
1974	18 607 655	992 345	19 600 000
1973	$16 409 893	1 008 640	$17 418 533
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES ($000 Omitted)			
1982	$13 445 249	434 751	$13 880 000
1981	11 859 909	346 091	12 206 000
1980	10 176 779	298 221	10 475 000
1979	9 073 145	166 855	9 240 000
1978	7 806 836	278 164	8 085 000
1977	6 864 461	250 539	7 115 000
1976	6 072 006	227 994	6 300 000
1975	5 293 918	206 082	5 500 000
1974	4 713 679	206 321	4 920 000
1973	$4 113 542	203 448	$4 316 990
AVERAGE DAILY CONVERSATIONS (000 Omitted)			
1982	196 946	4 854	201 800
1981	197 331	3 769	201 100
1980	187 474	4 526	192 000
1979	179 554	3 446	183 000
1978	163 078	5 922	169 000
1977	153 670	5 630	159 300
1976	145 849	5 651	151 500
1975	140 202	5 798	146 000
1974	136 007	6 993	143 000
1973	126 900	7 725	134 625

Facing Change

"PhoneFacts '83" tells you about a new system of paying for long-distance service. Recent "PhoneFacts" have reported on other aspects of deregulation and competition. Divestiture of the Bell System operating companies from the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. adds another major dimension of change. In January 1984 all these new pieces of the national telephone picture are scheduled to be in place. You will have a new world of telephone service.

This prospect makes it important to restate the position of your Independent local exchange telephone company.

Your telephone company opposed many of the regulatory changes that are taking place. Not because we oppose competition as such, but because we believe the impact of the changes on consumers was not researched or understood.

The industry's views did not prevail among federal regulators. The industry sought congressional legislation to set proper guidelines. No legislation has been passed.

Yet these changes are becoming facts of life. What is the independent companies' policy now.

It's simple. To emphasize strongly the good things--greater choice in equipment and service arrangements, availability of new technology. To try to minimize the results consumers don't welcome—such as higher local rates, complexities in service arrangements, possible threats to the quality of service.

Our basic policy really remains the same: to provide the best service at the least cost possible. This is our pledge to you. We invite you to discuss your opportunities and questions with your local telephone company.

A Message from Robert M. Pirnie
President, USITA

VITAL FACTS ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

- Independents now number 1,432 companies with 192,100 employees. During 1981 due to consolidations there was a decrease of 27 operating companies.
- Access Lines now served by Independents number 21,671,900, about one of every five in the United States, in 11,074 exchanges serving about 59% of the nation's geographic service area.
- Investment in plant and facilities is now $41 billion and total plant investment is the equivalent of $215,513 per employee. About $4.7 was spent in 1982 for upgrading service and facilities estimated for 1983 $4.4 billion.
- Independent Revenues in 1982 climbed the 13.7 per cent to $13,880 billion, an increase of $1,674 million over 1981. This compares with an increase in Bell System revenues of 10.6 per cent.
- Growth has been a hallmark of the Independent industry since the end of World War II. Gross revenues have grown at an average annual rate of 13.9 per cent since 1973 compared with Bell's 11.9 per cent.